

o'clock at night, where I waited one hour to collect the men, who had scattered, owing to the badness of the Ghaut. By the *Patell of this village I was informed, that the enemy had stationed mounted videttes at every village between that place and their camp, which was about twelve coss distant, but that there was a road leading to it through the jungle, frequented only by † Brinjaries, by which I might advance unobserved, and he offered to conduct me: I accordingly mounted him on a horse, and proceeding by the route he pointed out, arrived at the village they were reported to be encamped at, ten coss distant, a little after day-break, when I found that they had marched from thence the evening before to Gunnaispoor, about two coss. I advanced with five or six horsemen to reconnoitre, leaving orders with Captain Pedlar, to bring up the horse, and desiring Captain Pedlar to leave the knapsacks of the infantry in a ravine, and to follow with the utmost expedition: I had advanced about a mile, when I discovered one of the patrols of the enemy, whom I immediately pursued, and took two of them prisoners; a third man escaped through the jungle to the left; from the two prisoners I ascertained, that the enemy had their horses ready saddled, but had not received any information of our approach. I sent back to desire Captain Pedlar to advance at a brisk pace; he overtook me in a short time, and we pushed on at a smart canter, and in ascending a rising ground perceived the enemy drawn up to receive us, their right flank protected by a strong ‡ Gurhee, into which they had thrown some infantry, and their front covered by a § nullah with steep banks. As they considerably outnumbered us, being about two thousand strong, and chiefly armed with matchlocks, I determined upon instantly charging them with the sabre, and accordingly ordered the men to sling their matchlocks, and advance in as compact a body as the nature of the ground, which was covered with low jungle, would admit of; on receiving this order our line advanced at full speed, every man endeavouring to be first on the enemy: they fired a few shots from their matchlocks as we were crossing the nullah, which fortunately passed over us without doing any injury. The instant we got over the nullah the enemy broke and fled in all directions, and were pursued upwards of three coss, sustaining a loss of above two hundred men killed, besides a great number of wounded; amongst the latter was a person who appeared to be a Chief of consequence, called by his own men Appa Sahab, and who when wounded threw down his spear, and being well mounted made his escape. Finding the enemy by this time completely dispersed, I ordered the pursuit to cease, and the men to return to the enemy's camp.

Having been wounded during the pursuit, I had dismounted to tie up my arm, when I was informed

* The Patell or Patall is the head man of a village, who collects the rents, and has the general superintendence of its concerns.

† Brinjaries collect grain for the Army.

‡ Gurhees are mud forts, some of them are surrounded with ditches.

§ Nullah, a rivulet.

that a fresh body of the enemy was coming down on our right; I ordered Captain Robinson, who had arrived with the infantry during the pursuit, to fall in his men. I mounted, and collecting as many of the horse as I could, advanced with the infantry in column left in front, and the horse formed in line on the left of the infantry, about five miles, when I found Risaldar Alum Alie Khan, and first Jemadar Meer Suffdeer Ali had collected about two hundred men on the banks of a nullah, with whom they kept the enemy in check, by a fire from their matchlocks: the instant they saw our line advancing they went off at speed in a north-westerly direction; and our horses being completely jaded, by the length of the march and pursuit, I considered it usefully to follow them.

A few prisoners were taken, from whom I learnt that the body of horse collected, which they stated to be two thousand, was commanded by Godajee Row, a nephew of Trimbeckjee Dainglia, and that Trimbeckjee himself was shortly expected to join them with a large reinforcement. The body of horse which threatened to renew the combat were said to consist of five hundred, which had been detached to a village at some distance, with about three hundred of the fugitives who had rallied. One of the prisoners also stated that they had been joined, the evening before, by about one hundred and fifty horse from the southward; that a body of Arabs, from Mullegaon, was expected in two days; and that Godajee Row Dainglia had written to Setoo for assistance, who had promised to send him a large body of Pindarries.

I am happy to say the loss on our part was as little as can be expected; and, I should imagine, it can not exceed ten men killed, and twenty or twenty-five wounded; amongst the latter, I regret to state, is Captain Pedlar, severely.

I shall have the honour to forward a return* of the killed and wounded as soon as it can be prepared.

I cannot close this dispatch without expressing the high sense I entertain of the assistance I received from Captain Pedlar and Lieutenant Rind, who joined me as a volunteer on this occasion; the former of whom had charge of the right, and the latter of the left wing. I have much pleasure in assuring you, that although we had marched upwards of fifty miles before the attack commenced, not a man of the infantry had fallen in the rear; and I feel convinced, from the eagerness they displayed on the occasion, that if an opportunity had offered, they would have afforded me every assistance.

The behaviour of both Officers and men, composing the detachment of reformed horse with me in this affair exceeded my most sanguine expectations. There was not a single Officer who did not distinguish himself, and they were most gallantly supported by their men.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EVAN DAVIES,

Captain, commanding the Reformed Horse.

Captain George Sydenham, Political Agent in Berar.

* Not yet received.